

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE TOWN OF COLLINS
FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THEIR
120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize The Town of Collins Fire Department on the occasion of their 120th anniversary.

On September 29, 1892, the Town of Collins residents took the initiative to fill a community need and formed their own fire department made up of 26 men led by H.F. Clark. These men operated with minimal equipment, comprising of one hand drawn pumper. The Collins Center Volunteers didn't have a fire house or regular meetings at the time and stored their pumper in the barn of D.W. Wood. But in 1902, the barn burned and the men acted by converting the former wagon shop of John Auwerter into a fire hall and town jail and thus, the Collins Center Volunteers finally had a home. The members hosted several meetings and the fire company became much like a social club for the men in town.

In 1922 the Collins Center Volunteers purchased their first horse-drawn gasoline engine for \$750.00 which helped them cover the extensive area. But even with new equipment, it was decided that the area was too great a challenge to cover for these men. So on April 21, 1925, the Collins Fire Company was formed, and they drastically reduced their coverage area while increasing fire protection.

The transformation of the Fire Department continued as the Collins and Collins Center Fire Companies merged to become the Town of Collins Fire District along with the merge the Board of Fire Commissioners was created. The Fire Department would hold annual fundraisers to increase their budget and build their Department.

Today, the firefighters train in numerous areas including firefighting pump operation, water supply, forestry fire, incident command, auto extrication, and search and rescue operations. The Fire Department has truly evolved over the years, and it could not have happened without the strong backing of such a vibrant, hard working community.

It is with great pleasure that I stand today to honor the Town of Collins Fire Department on their 120th anniversary of serving and protecting the community. The Collins Center Volunteer Fire Company has consistently answered the call to service, whether as volunteers or as active reservists. It is my privilege to join with this fine organization on the evening of Saturday, January 21, 2012 and recognize the unwavering service of the Town of Collins Fire Company.

CHARLIE BARR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the exceptional service and leadership of Charles L. Bar III on his retirement from a long and successful career in Clay County, Missouri government.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Charlie served as Athletic Supervisor for the St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Department and was responsible for the management of numerous Buchanan county amenities and projects. In 1987, he became Clay County's Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites, and supervised the enhancement and construction of new recreational facilities. He also oversaw countless special functions, from races and concerts to historical site events.

More recently, Charlie served as Assistant County Administrator, handling the oversight of purchasing activities and staff, and then became the overall Director of Parks and Recreation. There, he expertly managed over 5,000 acres of park land, 34 miles of trail, a 7200-acre lake, and a large staff dedicated to assisting Clay County citizens and maintaining the county's public spaces. Finally, having spent the past few months as Interim County Administrator, Charlie retires after 34 years of outstanding service.

Charlie's hard work has not gone unrecognized. A member of the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, Charlie received the Fellow Award, the Association's highest honor. He has also received Mizou's Eye of the Tiger alumni award and numerous recognitions from the YMCA, the city of St. Joseph, and Clay County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Charlie Barr for his dedicated service to the people of Clay County. I know Charlie's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

BLACK JANUARY

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I note that January 20 marked the 22nd anniversary of an historic and tragic day in the history of the country of Azerbaijan.

On the night of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. As a result of this violent crackdown on the Azerbaijani people

more than 130 innocent civilians died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and many more were missing. This event remained in the history and in the minds of all the citizens as "Black January".

This attack was an attempt to stop the independence movement that was gaining momentum in Azerbaijan and to rescue the totalitarian regime, the rule of Communist Party, and the whole Soviet Union. However, this invasion produced the opposite result. It further inflamed the national movement for independence in Azerbaijan and other Republics of the Soviet Union. In a resolution on January 22, 1990, the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR declared that the decree used by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to impose emergency rule in Baku and military deployment constituted an act of aggression. This event is seen as the rebirth of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Popular pressure led the country to break away from Soviet rule and declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. November 1991 marked the beginning of international recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. The United States was among the first nations to recognize independence of this young country. It established diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan on February 28, 1992, and opened an embassy in Baku in March of that year.

Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with sustainable economic growth and developing democratic institutions. The United States and Azerbaijan are cooperating on a broad range of issues and share a common vision for the future of the region and beyond.

I encourage my colleagues to join with me today in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

**THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE
V. WADE**

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 39th anniversary of the monumental court decision *Roe v. Wade*.

Since legalizing abortion in 1973, approximately 50 million abortions have been performed in the United States alone. Just today, over 4,000 babies will be aborted and over the course of 2012—1.4 million children in the United States will not be granted life.

Mr. Speaker, I am unapologetically pro-life and am proud to be a member of the Pro-Life Caucus. I believe that the miracle of human life begins at the very moment of conception.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I also believe that every human being has the inherent right to life and that this right must be protected by law. As a woman, a wife, and a mother of two small children, I will continue to fight for the unborn as the Representative of Alabama's Second Congressional District.

I applaud my home state of Alabama in its admirable fight to protect human life. Alabama recently became the fifth state to pass a measure banning physicians from performing abortions after 20 weeks—which, according to research, is the point where unborn children can experience pain. I applaud the Alabama legislature for taking such a strong stance on abortion and protecting the unborn.

I believe that I have an obligation to do everything in my power to fight for the unborn, prevent taxpayer money from funding abortions, and to protect our democratic system from the encroachment of an all-powerful judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, today is a time to celebrate the gift of life and mourn those whose lives were unjustly ended before birth. Let us use the 39th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* as an occasion to reaffirm our beliefs and our vow to fight for the life of every child.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY BEDNARZ FOR HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Anthony Bednarz upon his retirement after 50 years of service to the residents of Western Springs and Riverside, Illinois, two villages in my district. He retired on December 31, 2011. These two villages are, and always will be, safer thanks to his efforts.

The seeds of Chief Bednarz's career were planted at a young age, since his father served as a firefighter as well. Thinking that he wanted to avoid firefighting, Chief Bednarz entered the United States Army where he served honorably. After his discharge, he changed his mind and joined the Riverside Fire Department in 1961. He knew almost immediately that he wanted to be a leader within the department and took classes to be one of the first to earn a degree in Fire Science from the College of DuPage.

Over the years, Chief Bednarz gained the respect of his peers and eventually became Fire Chief of the Riverside Fire Department in 1976—a position he would hold for the next 30 years. The Riverside Fire Department is one of the most progressive and effective in the area thanks to the leadership of Chief Bednarz. He was pivotal in modernizing the department's building and rolling stock. He also coordinated the Riverside emergency medical response system in the 1970s.

Chief Bednarz left the Riverside Fire Department five years ago to join the Western Springs Fire Department where he helped make improvements and guided the construction of a new building for the fire department.

Chief Bednarz has touched countless lives as a firefighter, manager, and mentor. He will

be missed as a veteran firefighter and we are all sad to see him go. But it is a happy time for his family, as his retirement will give him more time to enjoy with his wife, Marianne, his children, Krista, Lisa, Charles, and Paula, and his grandchildren. I thank Fire Chief Anthony Bednarz for his career of service and I wish him a long and happy retirement.

HONORING RACHEL COLLETT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the extraordinary life and decidedly courageous outlook of Rachel Collett upon her graduation from Livonia Churchill High School.

On January 13, 2012, Rachel, resplendent in her red cap and gown, rose from her wheelchair and walked across the stage to accept her high school diploma. After ceremoniously moving the tassel from right to left, she triumphantly tossed her cap into the air as family, friends and school officials applauded.

Rachel Collett has taught much more than she has learned. She was diagnosed with osteosarcoma at the age of 11 and though since the initial diagnosis she has been constantly been in some form of treatment but never remission, she has never let the disease define her. Rather, she focused on living and determined to schedule her treatment around life and not life around her treatment. She has resolved to make every moment worth remembering. Rachel was earned a Livonia Rotary Service Award, earned college credits while in high school, coached middle school cheerleading squads and was a member of the Churchill High School varsity cheerleading squad until this school year. She attended classes until October 2011 when the debilitating pain made it impossible to continue. Even then, the indomitable Miss Collett continued her schoolwork at home.

Rachel Collett is a remarkable young woman who reminds us longevity is never promised in this life. She has accepted what is and is determined to live the days God has given her striving to accomplish the goals she has set for herself. What we take for granted she fights for the opportunity to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and absolute privilege to recognize this incredibly inspiring young woman. For all she has endured, Rachel Collett still embraces life with an irrepressible smile. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incomparable light she is to all who know her and in thanking her for all she has brought to our community and our country. Shine on, Rachel.

IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY LEVINE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the loss of a titan of education in Los Angeles,

Shirley Levine, who passed away on January 9, 2012. The entire Los Angeles community suffered a great loss in her passing.

Shirley Levine served as an educator in the LA Unified School District before founding the Abraham Joshua Heschel School in 1972. Encouraged by several local leaders, such as Rabbi Harold Schulweis and Mark Lainer, Shirley laid the groundwork for a school that would fuse humanistic values, a love of Judaism, and unparalleled secular studies. She originally opened the school in North Hollywood, CA, but Heschel quickly outgrew facilities at Adat An El and Valley Beth Shalom synagogues, among other locations, and the school eventually found a permanent home in Northridge, CA. As noted by Rabbi Jan Goldstein, the rabbi-in-residence during Heschel Day School's early years, each institution was forever impacted by Shirley's vision and passion.

As Heschel's Congressman during the 1980s and 1990s, I watched the school mature into a powerful source of moral strength in the San Fernando Valley community, with thousands of roots that trace back to Shirley's instruction and guidance. I have seen these roots firsthand—many of my constituents are current students and graduates of Heschel, as are some of my staff and close family friends. I can see Shirley's legacy through the activism and Jewish vitality of these individuals.

One graduate related to me stories of weekly Sabbath gatherings in every classroom at Heschel, and how meaningful it was to mark that day each week with peers. The week had an anchor, with the Sabbath as the focus. That epitomizes Shirley's approach—she created an institution with a warm, welcoming environment, one imbued with Jewish and humanistic values. I am also aware that many graduates credit Shirley for making them the person they are today, especially those who spent an inordinate amount of time for disciplinary reasons in Shirley's office. Shirley's son, Darren, stated during Shirley's eulogy that his mother's lasting message is: "Be passionate about what you do, treat others with compassion, and take actions to make the world a better place." I am inspired by the passion in which Shirley led her life; I am mindful of the compassion she imbued in her students; and I am grateful to Shirley for indeed making our community a better place.

My condolences go out to Shirley's husband, Arnold; children Mark, Darren and Marci; and the entire Heschel family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 947 I was detained while attempting to reach the house floor to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF THE JANUARY 12, 2010 EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the quarter of a million Haitians who lost their lives during the devastating earthquake that occurred on January 12, 2010. As we reflect on the two years that have passed since this tragedy, it is important to express our gratitude to those who have helped rebuild Haiti and renew our commitment to further assist survivors.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, over 50 percent of American households donated to earthquake victims, and the United States dispatched 20,000 civilian and military personnel to Haiti. These Americans put into operation the largest urban food distribution in history to 3.5 million people, provided emergency shelter to 1.5 million people, and implemented a vaccination campaign for more than 1 million people. Within the past two years, aid has shifted from rescue efforts to innovative reconstruction and development strategies. Still, there remains much more work to be done. The generosity of millions of people around the globe gives us hope that Haiti will be rebuilt.

The South Florida community displayed its continued commitment to the reconstruction of Haiti at a special event recognizing the two year anniversary of the earthquake on January 8th, 2012. Arranged by the Democratic Haitian American Caucus of Florida, the event included a Catholic Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, a memorial service at Parish Hall, and a donation drive in partnership with a church group to collect supplies for victims.

I am proud to represent so many men and women in South Florida who in these past two years have supported our vibrant Haitian community in a myriad of ways, from housing displaced victims to donating supplies for reconstruction. As we remember those lost in this devastating natural disaster two years ago, we must reaffirm our commitment to helping Haiti rebuild their nation and forge a better future for themselves and their families.

HONORING THE NATIONAL INTEL SCIENCE COMPETITION SEMIFINALISTS OF LONG ISLAND

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 58 Long Island high school seniors named as semifinalists in the National Intel Science competition. With 300 semifinalists nationwide, the Intel Science Talent Search gives high school seniors the opportunity to engage in ambitious science based research projects. I am especially proud of the constituents from my Congressional District on Long Island who were selected as semifinalists in this prestigious competition.

This next generation is continuing Long Island's strong legacy of pushing new innova-

tions and scientific breakthroughs. Using math and science as a foundation, the seniors approached their respective projects from a variety of angles. By gaining access to professional laboratories at local universities, participants were given the opportunity to bring their creative aspirations to fruition. In doing so, they have begun to tackle some of our nation's most difficult challenges.

From working on a possible cure for Alzheimer's disease to creating a flame resistant plastic, our Long Island contestants embody the true American spirit of innovation and problem solving. Their sacrifice, patience and determination are instrumental in keeping America's competitive edge in a global economy.

Coupled with the effort of exceptional students, our Long Island science teachers played a pivotal role in this accomplishment. By pushing the boundaries and setting high expectations, these excellent teachers have helped their students succeed. Long Island's strong placement in the Intel Science competition semifinals reflects their dedication and commitment to their students' success. Moving forward, it is critical that our schools have the resources they need to cultivate robust math and science programs.

At the end of this month, forty finalists will be selected and invited to Washington, D.C. to meet leading scientists and researchers in a variety of fields. I am optimistic that some of our Long Island seniors have the privilege to attend. For all of the Intel Science Talent semifinalists, I wish them continued success as they pursue their college educations and future careers. I would now like to formally submit their names to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Rebecca Alford, Austin Lee and Savina Kim of Commack High School; Juliana Coraor of Huntington High School; Malini Desai of Half Hollow Hills High School West; Jill Dolowich, Neil Mehta, Anuja Shah, Anirudh Chandrashekar, April Pun, Sagar Rambhia and Christine Kim of Jericho High School; Parsa Erfani, Samantha Fradkin, Sherilyn Gould and Mariam Makram of Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School; Samantha Garvey of Brentwood High School; Hannah Kenagy of Half Hollow Hills High School East; Amelia Morales, Shannon Wetzler and Eric Parigoris of Kings Park High School; Garima Yadav of Sachem North High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 2, Adoption of H.J. Res. 98, relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE MEMORY OF ROSCOE R. NIX

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I advise my colleagues of the death on January 4, 2012 of my constituent, civil rights leader and education activist, Roscoe R. Nix. Roscoe Nix was an inspirational giant in the Montgomery County, Maryland community where he was known for his wisdom, his kind and caring manner, and his fierce dedication to social and educational equality for all Americans. Mr. Nix worked passionately for decades as a leading civil rights activist, drawing attention to racial inequalities throughout our country.

Roscoe Russa Nix was born June 22, 1921, in Greenville, Alabama, the second of nine children and the son of the only black postman in town. Mr. Nix attended Alabama A&M University but left to serve in the Army in Europe during World War II. After his military service, he settled in the Washington area and graduated from Howard University. He moved to Montgomery County in 1968 where he resided until 2010 when, for health reasons, he moved near his daughter in Riverdale, Georgia.

Growing up in segregated Alabama, Roscoe Nix had firsthand experience with Jim Crow laws and the injustice of institutionalized racism. After moving to the Washington, DC area, Mr. Nix observed that northern states were more likely to have simply overlooked their own records of discrimination. He recalled being refused service at a Silver Spring, Maryland restaurant in 1962 and the demonstration he staged in response. Moments like this defined his career and inspired him to work for change.

During our Nation's post-segregation era, Mr. Nix worked for the U.S. Justice Department's Community Relations Service, traveling around the country as a "peacemaker" to work with local leaders on conflict resolution in cities experiencing civil unrest.

For decades, Mr. Nix was a leader in public education in Montgomery County. In 1974, he was the second African American elected to the Montgomery County Board of Education where he fought against de facto school segregation. As a member of the Board until 1978 and then afterwards, he pushed for greater resources for schools in poorer neighborhoods and spoke out about racial disparities in the schools. Mr. Nix was a champion for early childhood initiatives and fought for increased funding of Head Start and Title 1 and for lower class size in the elementary grades. In 2006, the Montgomery County Board of Education dedicated the Roscoe R. Nix Elementary School in Silver Spring in recognition of his contributions to the public education of the children in the county.

In 1989, Mr. Nix co-founded the Montgomery County African American Festival of Academic Excellence. This annual event recognizes, encourages and celebrates African American students for their academic achievements and reinforces the idea that it is "cool" to be smart.

Serving as President of the Montgomery County chapter of the NAACP from 1980-90, Roscoe Nix spoke out against police mistreatment of minorities and worked to increase the

number of African American officers on the police force.

In 2001, Mr. Nix was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame. After receiving the honor, he said, "So much of what Montgomery County is today is because of struggle. . . . It's hard, especially for young people, to remember how we got where we are today." He noted, "Blessings come to people through someone else's help or through some unknown entity. Because of that, it is our obligation to use whatever it is that one of us has to help those who are less fortunate or who may be afraid to speak for themselves." These guiding words and the legacy and achievements of Roscoe R. Nix will live on in Montgomery County, in Maryland, and across our Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary American and in offering our condolences to Mr. Nix's wife of 59 years, Emma Coble Nix; his two daughters, Veretta Nix and Susan Webster; his sister, Anita Jackson; his three brothers, Crispus Carey Nix, Pettis Nix and Comer Nix; and his three grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Tuskegee Airmen for their excellence in aviation, their courage, and their role as trailblazers for equality. On January 20, 2012, the movie "Red Tails," which depicts the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, debuted nationwide.

The story of the Tuskegee Airmen, as they would become known as, begins long before they fought in World War II. Their first fight began at home, against racial discrimination. Prior to WW II, the U.S. Army Air Corps prohibited African Americans from serving as pilots, because the U.S. government believed that African Americans were incapable of flying an airplane. In October 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt ended the ban on African Americans serving as pilots in the Air Corps. However, it was not until January 1941, in response to pressure from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Chicago Defender and other African American newspapers, and only one day after Howard University student Yancey Williams threatened to sue the Secretary of War because the Air Corps still had not accepted any African Americans pilots, that the War Department created an all-black squadron in Tuskegee, Alabama, the U.S. Military was racially segregated at the time. Soon thereafter, the Airmen received a visit from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. During the visit, she asked Charles "Chief" Anderson, the head of the program, "Can Negroes really fly airplanes?" Chief Anderson replied: "Certainly we can; as a matter of fact, would you like to take an airplane ride?" Mrs. Roosevelt accepted and upon landing, she turned to Chief Anderson and said, "I guess Negroes can fly."

By the spring of 1941, the training of the first group of Tuskegee Airmen, the 99th

Fighter Squadron, commenced. The squadron consisted of 13 African American men, all of whom were college graduates and had earned their pilot licenses prior to serving in the Air Corps. The Airmen trained under difficult conditions, from overcrowded classrooms and airstrips to racist officers. In 1943, the Airmen were sent to North Africa, and Europe to fight. In their first mission, they managed to shoot down six German aircraft.

The Tuskegee Airmen were known as the "Red Tailed Angels" because of the red paint on the propeller and tail of their planes. In all, approximately 990 men graduated from Tuskegee's pilot training program but only 450 of them were sent overseas for combat assignments. These heroes managed to destroy over 409 German airplanes and 950 railcars, trucks, and other vehicles. The Airmen flew, 1,578 missions over Europe and North Africa, escorted more than 200 bombing missions, and were the first to sink a battleship using only machine guns, remarkable accomplishments for a group of men whom the military thought could not fly. In total, the Red Tails were awarded 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, and 14 Bronze Stars. The accomplishments of these brave soldiers helped pave the way for President Harry Truman's decision to integrate the military in 1948. In 2007, several decades after they completed their last mission, President George W. Bush presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to the Tuskegee Airmen, a well-deserved recognition for a group of men who had to fight two battles, one at home and another abroad.

Not surprisingly, there are currently 31 Airmen living in the D.C. Area. Residents from the District of Columbia, particularly students from Dunbar High School, the then segregated public high school for black students here, were selected in a disproportionate number as Tuskegee Airmen.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen and in thanking them for their service.

HONORING DONALD SCHNEIDER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize Mr. Donald Schneider, a pioneer who transformed the transportation industry as we know it. I am pleased to have the opportunity to call attention to his service and his remarkable story of American entrepreneurship and ingenuity.

Mr. Schneider, chairman emeritus and former president of Schneider National, Inc., ran one of the nation's largest truckload carriers with nearly 12,500 tractors and 35,000 trailers, all painted in a distinct shade of orange. You may have seen his trucks driving down our great national highways, hauling goods from coast to coast. Behind these trucks was a stellar businessman who leveraged new technologies and innovations to grow his company into one of the most successful, recognizable, and respected transportation and logistics companies in North America. In the process, an industry was transformed and millions of Americans benefited

from his life's work without them even realizing.

Mr. Schneider was a hard working man who began as a mechanic's assistant and truck driver at the age of 18. He graduated from St. Norbert College with an undergraduate degree in business and married his wife Pat in 1957. After serving a 13 month military tour of duty in Korea, Schneider graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School, then began to work in his father's trucking business in 1961, fusing his passion for trucking with a keen business sense.

Over the next three decades, Mr. Schneider expanded his fleet substantially, using modern management techniques and acquisition of regional trucking companies to grow his business. Under Mr. Schneider's leadership, Schneider National was one of only a few pre-deregulation truckload carriers that survived and flourished after the Motor Carrier Act of 1980.

Later in that same decade, his company even began to install satellite communication in trucks. By allowing companies to track their trucks in real time, consumers benefitted from faster package deliveries and just-in-time inventory management.

His company's entrance into the logistics business in 1993 heralded a new frontier in trucking by enhancing the ability of companies to manage time-sensitive deliveries and inventories. Meanwhile, his use of standard-sized trailers that could run over the road and ride on railroad flatcars—known as intermodal transportation—established partnerships with the railroads and was followed by all others in the industry.

Now, it is unimaginable how the trucking industry ever fared without Mr. Schneider's visionary ways.

Though Mr. Schneider was a great man, he never lost his common touch. He insisted on being called by his first name, and was a community philanthropist who was active in several charities. In a 1997 interview, he was quoted as saying, "My job is important, but it's no more important than the driver or the people in the service center."

Mr. Schneider was a man who had a true servant's heart, and America has been enriched by his service to this country. His entrepreneurial spirit will endure not only in his company's orange trucks and trailers, but in the homes of countless Americans who have benefitted from his innovations. I invite the American people to join me in celebrating his life.

HONORING THE CARROLL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DRAGON CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Carroll Senior High School Dragon cross country boys and girls teams for winning their respective 2011 Texas state championship titles.

Carroll Senior High School competes in the University Interscholastic League Class 5A, the most competitive athletic class composed of the largest schools in Texas. For the girls

team, this championship was their fifth in Class 5A since 2005, and their first since 2008. For the boys team, this was their first title in school history.

Both teams turned out strong performances by all competitors. The girls won with a team score of 34 points. Three of their runners earned a spot among the top ten finishers at the state competition. Courtney Kriegshauser led the Lady Dragons with a second-place finish.

The boys' first title broke the championship record for team points. They finished with 20 points, which is the lowest in the history of 5A state meets. Five of the boys made the top ten, with Nate Sullivan leading the way in fifth.

I am extremely proud of the Carroll Dragon cross country teams for their excellence in athleticism and sportsmanship. I would like to recognize each player on these championship teams. For the girls: Shelby Chapin, Rachel Harper, Felice Johnson, Courtney Kriegshauser, Allison Naval, Sarah Roe and Julia Sunderland. For the boys: Jordan Chavez, Trevor Gilley, Ben Golestan, Connor Hendrickson, Alex Johansson, Joe Sansone and Nate Sullivan. The team was guided by an exceptional coaching staff that included Justin Leonard, Nichole Gilley, Brandon Rogers, and Christopher Anderson.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carroll Dragon cross country teams on winning the boys and girls state championship titles.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,236,271,879,792.78. We've added \$10,434,866,704,498.50 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT CATES

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to my friend, producer and director, Gilbert Cates who passed away on October 31, 2011 at the age of 77. Let this congressional insert serve as a tribute to his memory and celebration of his meaningful life.

Born June 6, 1934, in New York City to Jewish parents, Mr. Cates was a member of the fencing team at Syracuse University studying pre-med but changed his major to Theater after an experience teaching actors to sword fight during a student production of Richard III.

Gilbert began his career directing a number of feature films—including two Oscar nominated films—I Never Sang for My Father, in 1970, and Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams, in 1973. He also produced and directed Broadway and off Broadway plays, most notably the productions of I Never Sang for My Father and You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running.

Hailed as a director with a propensity for taking on challenging themes, in 1984 Gilbert directed Consenting Adult, a made-for-TV feature which focused on homosexuality and was followed up in 1989 with Do You Know the Muffin Man?, a story centered on child molestation. Mr. Cates received Emmy nominations in the Best Director category for both projects.

During his tenure as president of the Directors Guild of America, DGA, Gilbert led the guild's negotiations committee and four times headed contract negotiations with producers, leading the guild through a strike in 1987. He was instrumental in orchestrating the merger between the Radio & Television Directors Guild and the Screen Directors Guild in 1960.

Well known for producing some 14 Academy Awards broadcasts between 1990 and 2008, Gilbert is famed for recruiting Billy Crystal and Whoopi Goldberg as well as David Letterman, Steve Martin, Chris Rock and Jon Stewart as hosts. He also served on the Academy's Board of Governors from 1984–1993, and won an Emmy in 1991 for the 63rd annual Oscars, returning to the board in 2002 and serving as its Vice President from 2003–2005.

In 1990, Gilbert became the Dean of UCLA's newly combined School of Theater, Film and Television, a post he held until 1998, after which he continued to educate young filmmakers as a professor. As a result of his many professional accomplishments, Mr. Cates received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He also received the DGA's prestigious President's Award and the Guild's Robert Aldrich Award for service, as well as having received the DGA's Honorary Life Membership.

Gilbert was a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Judith Reichman, four children, two stepchildren and six grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and achievements of Gilbert Cates.

HONORING KENT MORTON

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Kent Morton and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 28.

Born on June 12, 1983, Kent Morton was a gregarious man with a ready smile. He loved his close-knit family and called his older brother Shane his best friend. Kent was a man who was always willing to help in any way he could. He was happily involved in his Garden City community and spent many hours as a PTA volunteer at Lathers Elementary School where his daughter Makayla is a student. He often used his formidable painting skills to help beautify his church.

Regrettably, on January 11, 2012, Kent Morton fell more than 100 feet from the painters' scaffolding on the Ambassador Bridge into the frigid Detroit River. Although he did survive the initial fall, he could not survive the strong current and passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved parents, Fawn and Mario Salvatore, and father David Morton. He leaves a legacy in his adored daughter, Makayla, and an unborn child. His treasured siblings, Shane, Amber, Bret and Sarah will forever carry Kent in their hearts. He will be deeply missed by his cherished fiancée Kristi Waltsgott and many family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Kent Morton is remembered as a loving father, a compassionate son, a devoted brother and an admired friend. Kent was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community and his country. Today, as we bid Kent farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his devotion to his country and his community.

MARCELLUS SHALE—ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, the natural gas industry is very important to my constituents in West Virginia. Given the exciting opportunities that my state has as a result of the Marcellus Shale, I particularly appreciate the opportunity to discuss ancillary industries that West Virginia has the opportunity to develop as a result of its shale resources. I applaud Congressmen Reed and Critz for organizing a Special Order on the Shale's ancillary industries.

America's current energy policy is highly flawed. My constituents can see its flaws when they are forced to pay higher prices at the gas pump. Newly found shale resources have given us a major opportunity to take advantage of home-grown natural resources like natural gas diversifying our energy portfolio and making us less dependent on foreign sources of energy. Our combined recoverable oil, natural gas and coal resources is the largest in the world. The United States must seize the opportunity to tap into these resources; however the Administration remains intent on enforcing a moratorium on energy production and transportation.

In 2009, the oil and natural gas industry supported 24,400 jobs in West Virginia. It is projected that the next decade could see an increase in 18,000 to 26,000 jobs due to Marcellus investment and production. In addition to the economic boost that this nation can receive by utilizing its own energy resources, we also have the opportunity to strengthen existing industries and to also develop new ones. There are abundant resources present in the Marcellus Shale, including natural gas, oil, propane, and ethane. These resources can be used to heat our homes, power our vehicles and fleets, and to serve as a feedstock for chemical production.

As my colleagues from Ohio and Pennsylvania know, our states are currently competing against one another to attract chemical plants known as "crackers". A single cracker would

result in billions of dollars in investment, tens of thousands of construction jobs, and thousands of permanent jobs. It would also create jobs across the region and across the economic spectrum. A cracker would increase the local tax base, allowing local school districts to have more funds available to improve the education offered to our children.

Attracting a cracker to the region will benefit all of our states and the country as a whole, but my hope is that West Virginia is successful at gaining this exciting opportunity. I believe that West Virginia has everything that a company desiring to build a cracker could want. West Virginia has a strong budget picture, an improving tax climate, a ready and able workforce, and a strong history in the chemical industry. I want my constituents to know that I am working with other leaders from West Virginia to attract a cracker. A cracker would give West Virginians what they want the most: good paying jobs that will allow them to put food on the table and live the American dream.

Additionally, production in the Marcellus Shale gives us the opportunity to revive our industrial base. This is especially the case in regions that have historically been dominated by the steel and chemical industries. In order to actually produce the sources available in the shale we must first have steel and industrial equipment. The new demand for these materials will hopefully allow previously shuttered facilities to reopen, new facilities to be built, and existing facilities to increase production. All of this will create jobs.

We are blessed in West Virginia to have abundant, natural resources that power our country. The Marcellus Shale will undoubtedly play a major role in the future of the energy industry, moving us toward energy independence and creating jobs in ancillary industries as well as the energy industry.

Of course we must develop these resources in a responsible manner that ensures our grandchildren have clean air and water. It is essential that a proper regulatory structure is in place, one that balances exploiting this tremendous resource with environmental concerns. However, it is not necessary for the federal government and bureaucrats in Washington to balance these concerns. I fully support States being able to regulate the natural gas industry without undue interference from Washington bureaucrats. I am confident that states have the ability to regulate this industry, West Virginia showed that it had the ability to do so when it passed comprehensive legislation regulating shale gas production.

I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to ensure that we are able to take advantage of our domestic resources to create the jobs that Americans so desperately need.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED LARRY BUTLER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Larry Butler. Northwest Florida

and the world of music and entertainment mourn the loss of an extraordinarily gifted man.

A musical prodigy, Larry Butler began his distinguished career at the mere age of six, when he made a guest appearance singing with the Henry James Orchestra. At the age of nine, he had his own show on Pensacola's WEAR-TV3; and by his twenty-first birthday, Mr. Butler was already recording with musical legends such as George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash. He later collaborated with both Johnny Cash and Kenny Rogers, on some of their most well known hits. Mr. Butler is a two-time Grammy Award Winner with over 100 gold and platinum awards. He won his first Grammy for writing B.J. Thomas' hit song, "(Hey, Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song." His second Grammy was for Producer of the Year.

In addition to his celebrated musical career, Mr. Butler has contributed his hard work and talent to improving Northwest Florida. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast in 2004, Mr. Butler played a crucial role in orchestrating and producing three sold-out concerts with musical friends, Kenny Rodgers, Willie Nelson, and Will Hedgecock, which together raised more than a half million dollars for community rebuilding efforts.

To some, Larry Butler will be remembered as a musical genius; to others, he will be remembered for his charitable work in the Northwest Florida Community; and to his family and friends, he will always be remembered as a loving father and spouse. He touched the lives of many, not only with his music, but also with his devotion and commitment to his family and community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and deeds of Larry Butler—a talented musician, committed community activist and loving family man. He will be missed by many, but his memory will live on through the timeless legacy he left. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Butler family.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RETIRED SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RAMON V. DIAZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of retired Superior Court of Guam Judge, Ramon Valero Diaz. Judge Diaz passed away on January 15, 2012 at the age of 93.

Judge Diaz was born on October 13, 1918 in Manila, Philippines and is the son of Dr. Vicente Lozada Diaz and Bibiana Valero Diaz. He came to Guam in 1951 to work and make a living for his family. In 1956, he was admitted to the Guam Bar Association, and in 1958, became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

In 1980, Judge Diaz became the first person of Filipino descent to be appointed as a judge for the Superior Court of Guam. After 15 years of government service, he retired as a family court judge.

Judge Diaz graduated from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. In 1941,

in the wake of World War II, he was commissioned as an officer in the Philippine Army and was soon inducted into the United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAF) as an infantry line officer. On April 9, 1942, he was captured by Japanese Forces in the province of Bataan, Philippines, and was held as a prisoner of war in the Capas Concentration Camp. Later that year he was released as a POW and resumed his military duties shortly thereafter. In 1945, he completed studies from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General School for commissioned officers at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Upon his return from JAG school, he assumed the role of Chief of Claims Branch under JAG, Philippine Army, where he was responsible for the adjudication of all types of war claims in favor of heirs.

In 1951, Judge Diaz retired from the Philippine Army as Captain. Throughout his distinguished military career, he received various awards, including the United States and Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and the Philippine Presidential Military Merit Medal.

Judge Diaz was involved in many community organizations throughout his life. He was among the first ordained permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of Agaña and was instrumental in organizing the Knights of Columbus, Guam Council and Assembly. Further, he was a founding member of the Catholic Social Services, and was active in the establishment of St. Dominic's senior care home and the Dominican Catholic schools on Guam.

Judge Diaz was also heavily involved in the founding of the Filipino Community of Guam, where he served as President. He also helped establish the Marianas Audubon Society, the UST Alumni Association of Guam, and the Chapter of Bataan-Corregidor Veterans on Guam.

Judge Diaz was married to Josefina de la Concepcion for 66 years and together they raised 10 children: Marilu Martinez, Carl Diaz (deceased), Mariles Benavente, Marilen Artero, Maribel Chandler, Mariann Carr, Maricar Davis, Tony Diaz, Vicente Diaz, and Ramon Diaz Jr., and have been blessed with 19 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

I join our community in mourning the loss of Judge Ramon Diaz. His contributions to the Guam Judiciary and our community will be remembered by the many citizens he helped throughout his life. We extend heartfelt condolences to his many family, friends, and loved ones.

God bless Judge Diaz. He will be missed.

RICHLAND SPRINGS COYOTES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Richland Springs Coyotes on an outstanding 2011 football season. On December 9, 2011, the Coyotes won the Class A, 6-man Division II State Championship with a dominant 76-28 performance over the Motley County Matadors.

The victory capped a perfect season, where 14 of the Coyotes' opponents were subjected to the 45-point mercy rule—the Matadors were

no exception. This stellar performance earned the Coyotes their second consecutive state championship.

I want to congratulate the team on their work ethic—domination on the grid-iron does not come easy.

As well as the young men on the team, I want to recognize Coach Jerry Burkhart for putting together a football program of unparalleled success. In the 124 games played under his leadership, you can count all the losses on one hand! Incredible.

I encourage the team and the coaches to enjoy this moment to the utmost. It is my honor to represent Richland Springs and their outstanding football program. Again, I congratulate the Coyotes on a perfect season and a state championship.

RECOGNIZING BARRETT BYRNES

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Barrett Byrnes, a constituent and friend, who passed away on December 21, 2011. He was 59 years old.

Barrett Byrnes was raised in Huntington and attended Harborfields High School in Greenlawn before going on to Farmingdale State College. While a student at Farmingdale, Barrett pitched for the baseball team and in 1972 had an ERA of 0.36, fifth in the country and a school record that stands to this day.

Upon his graduation, Barrett followed in his father's footsteps and began training to become an air traffic controller. Ralph Byrnes was one of New York's first air traffic controllers at LaGuardia Airport.

Barrett's career began at Dutchess County Airport in Wappingers Falls, a small local airport. It ended at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, where he was a certified professional controller in the main tower for the final fourteen years of his career, retiring in 2008.

Beyond his valuable work in the control tower, Barrett was also an active leader in the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, of which he was a charter member, and president/faculty representative of the JFK Tower chapter. As a safety advocate, Barrett served as an air safety investigator to the National Transportation Safety Board.

It was through his commitment to legislative activism on behalf of his union that I came to know him, as he served as the face of the NATCA to the New York congressional delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I mourn the passing and honor the memory of Barrett Byrnes. I wish to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his wife, Jacqueline Taylor, and the rest of Barrett's family.

HONORING COACH JEFFREY R. STABILE OF BAYONNE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Coach Jeffrey R. Stabile, the former

head coach of Bayonne High School's Girls Basketball team, who taught in the district for over 37 years. Recently, the gymnasium in the Bayonne High School Physical Education/Community Education Center was dedicated to him and renamed, "Jeffrey R. Stabile Court." Coach Stabile had an outstanding coaching career with the Bayonne High School Bees and also coached both Boys and Girls Basketball and Softball. Additionally, Coach Stabile was a special education teacher.

Coach Jeffrey R. Stabile has been a coach at Bayonne High School for 41 years, including 14 years with the Boys Basketball program as a freshman coach and junior varsity coach, and 27 years with the Girls Basketball program as the head coach. Coach Stabile led the Boys Basketball team to back to back Hudson County Interscholastic Athletic Association Junior Varsity Championships in 1968–69 and in 1969–1970. As the Girls Basketball head coach, Coach Stabile compiled a record of 570 wins and 135 losses, which included 20 Hudson County Interscholastic Athletic Association (HCIAA) Finals and 14 HCIAA Championships. Coach Stabile led his teams to 11 New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Section Finals and won 5 Section Championships. Finally, his teams made 28 straight State Tournament appearances and reached the State final once in 2006. From 1985 until 1992, the team had a 120 game win streak versus Hudson County Teams which led to 7 straight HCIAA Championships.

For his accomplishments, Coach Stabile was inducted into the Hudson County Hall of Fame in 2005, into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2005, and the St. Aloysius High School Wall of Fame in 2007, where he attended high school.

Please join me in honoring Coach Jeffrey R. Stabile for his service to the community as a teacher and a coach. I thank him, his wife, Maryann, and his two children Jeffrey Jr. and Joelle, for his contribution to our community.

HONORING THE HONORABLE GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and esteemed colleague, the Honorable GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

A little over a year ago an unfathomable tragedy occurred in Tucson, Arizona, where six individuals were killed in a shooting and several others were wounded, including Congresswoman GIFFORDS. Congresswoman GIFFORDS courage and recovery reminds us that freedom defines our society, and violence will not silence reason and discourse. Congresswoman GIFFORDS unbreakable spirit is a lesson that fear will not drive us. Unity and the dedication to our democracy will help us rise above all adversity.

The victims of this tragedy were individuals who were committed to the well-being of their community. They had gathered that Saturday morning a year ago in Tucson to discuss making their community and our world a better

place. It is in good spirit that before Congresswoman GIFFORDS resigns she has chosen to finish what she started by holding a private gathering in Tucson with some of the people who were at present that tragic day a year ago.

As Ranking Member on the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology I have worked with Congresswoman GIFFORDS closely for the past five years, where she served as both the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. She has made an immeasurable contribution to our work on the Committee, and has been a steadfast champion of NASA and encouraging our next generation of scientists. She is one of the most devoted Members of the House of Representatives, and has served our country with distinction.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is a shining example of our Democratic system of government—a system where we all have a voice. As she departs these hallowed halls of Congress, I take comfort from the fact that she is doing so to devote her energies to restoring her full health, and I wish her the best in her continuing recovery. She and her family will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

I pray that we can rise together as a nation and embody those values of service that Congresswoman GIFFORDS has personified.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3684, THE COMMUTER PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Commuter Protection Act, of which I am proud to be an original cosponsor. This bipartisan, responsible legislation brings oversight of our nation's federally funded highway system back to the United States Department of Transportation, giving them the ability to determine whether tolls imposed by regional and state toll authorities are just and reasonable. This was an authority the Department of Transportation had previously, and one I believe should be restored. Importantly, they would only have oversight when, and if, there was a complaint about a toll practice.

Representing the 29th Congressional District of the great state of New York, this is an issue that impacts my constituents directly. Recent actions taken by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey are indicative of the abusive toll structure that can be imposed when agencies are left unchecked. The Port Authority recently raised toll rates for all of its bridges and tunnels, which, when fully implemented, will charge 5-axle tractor-semitrailer \$105 per crossing. Mister Speaker, this is a 163% cost jump, with rates three times higher than Philadelphia, the next highest city for tolls on trucks.

Mr. Speaker, a toll increase like this has a tremendously negative impact on my constituents who transport goods in and out of New York City. I have heard directly from many of them, like Ken Johnson who owns Leonards Express, a trucking company in Ontario County, about the harm this would do for his business and others throughout Western New

York and the Southern Tier. Additionally, it is clear that ultimately consumers will bear the burden of paying higher prices for goods they buy in stores.

While I understand making needed safety improvements to our nation's roads necessitates increasing tolls from time to time, I do not understand—nor has the Port Authority given—the justification for a rise of this magnitude. Thus, we need the Department of Transportation to be able to review these toll structures, and others across the country, to ensure taxpayer interests are being best served. Consumers and businesses should not be forced to pay the price for mismanagement, and that is why I urge my colleagues to support the Commuter Protection Act.

RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF VINCE PANVINI

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and thank Vince Panvini for his decades of service on behalf of sheet metal workers locally, nationally and internationally. Panvini's retirement from his position as Director of Governmental Affairs for the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association is a great loss to the community of sheet metal workers and to the labor community as a whole.

Throughout his career, Panvini has proven himself as a first-rate organizer and representative of his union members. For close to 50 years, this second-generation sheet metal worker has been a member of Local Union 19 in Philadelphia. He won election as a Local 19 trustee and later to their Executive Board. He rose to an appointment as Local Union Organizer, then was appointed—and later elected—as Business Representative for the Local. After attending training at Harvard Trade School for International Labor Relations, he was appointed as Director of Governmental Affairs for the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association in January 1994.

His success, friends and coworkers have said, is characterized by the fact that Panvini was “born to do this work.” His love of the job combined with his unparalleled memory and “funny but stern” personality has won him leagues of friends and allies. These attributes also won him great respect among peers, politicians, organizers, community leaders and union workers.

The labor community's loss at Panvini's retirement, however, will be his family's gain—a noble tradeoff. With a return to Philadelphia, he'll get quality time with family, his top priority. Panvini has a son, a daughter and four grandchildren. On top of that, Panvini will have more time to cheer on his Philadelphia Eagles.

I thank Vince Panvini for his years of service and wish him well in retirement.

COLLEGE RIVALRY GOOD FOR TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, “Texas fight, Texas fight and it's goodbye to A&M.” The words of the Texas fight song rang loud for the last time this year at the annual duel between the University of Texas and Texas A&M.

The last match-up between the two Texas football powerhouses was a bittersweet ending to a 117-year rivalry. Now, the eyes of Texas are upon the Aggies as they abandon the Big 12 for the alluring SEC. With that decision, ends one, if not the greatest football rivalries of all time.

The annual Turkey Day battle between the burnt orange and the maroon is not just a game played once a year; it's not just another team on the schedule. This game makes or breaks the season. It's a rivalry in every sense of the word; a chance for bragging rights for a whole year among family and friends. Neighborhood kids that grow up playing with each other become gridiron gladiators, fighting for the ultimate goal of beating the other. This football game divides households, friendships, and the state of Texas.

This past Thanksgiving, a historic battle between two Texas universities ran deep in the pulse of Texans who have watched year after year as these two waged war. With their final game, it's happy trails to a Texas tradition that I have grown up with, that my kids have grown up with and one that I would love my grandkids to grow up with.

The Longhorns walked out of Kyle field with a 27–25 victory and the bragging rights for at least another 10 years (or until a non-conference game becomes available). As the Aggies left their Austin counter-parts for what they believe are bigger and better fields in the SEC, they ended a 117-year relationship with the sudden divorce. Maybe the Aggies were tired of playing in the shadow of BEVO. After all, Texas holds a 2–1 lead in overall wins.

Not all people are glad about the end of this era. Even some Texas citizens with no ties to either school have suggested the legislature pass a law requiring the two state schools to play each other every year in football.

The rivalry between UT and Texas A&M is beyond a Saturday football game. Here at home, college football has become somewhat of a religion to many people—a deep-rooted passion between rival mascots and school colors clashing into hard-hitting victories. It's the Junction Boys, the Tyler Rose, the last-minute touchdown run by Vince Young in the Rose Bowl for the National Championship.

This is beyond college football; it's Texas football. Nowhere is it exemplified better than between the two schools.

It all started in the 19th century. Grover Cleveland was president when on Friday, Oct. 19, 1894, the University of Texas and Texas A&M University began their on-field feud. Texas A&M was a military academy until the mid-60s. The Aggies' record against the burnt orange suffered because of this, but this game was a must win among both schools. The Aggies hired legendary coach Bear Bryant as head coach and athletic director, but Bryant

only defeated the University of Texas one time in the four years he commanded before moving on to Alabama.

As A&M transitioned out of being solely a military academy, their traditions against the Longhorns were passed down from generation to generation. The two universities fed off of each other's student camaraderie by trying to out-do the other with war hymns, anthems, school pride, pep rallies and hand signs. Both schools even denounce the other in their school songs.

Legend has it that the UT mascot BEVO established his name after Aggies branded the steer with a 13–0 score from the 1915 season. After the branding, Texas officials tuned the 13 into the letter B and added the E and V into the middle, creating the name BEVO—one of the most recognized mascots in college football. Modern Texas revisionists claim this is all bunk. Who knows.

Even today, A&M has their hand in the well-being of the beloved mascot. When BEVO becomes ill, Texas officials have to quietly transport him to the College Station campus—to A&M's top ranked veterinarian program. They see it as a top secret mission so as to not invoke the students to “defame” the legendary steer.

Today, the rivalry between the students of each school is still alive. But there is no more football between the schools. The last game has been played; the teams have left the field; and the clock has ticked down to 0:00. In their losing effort this year, the Aggie faithful sang the “Aggie War Hymn” for the last time at the UT-A&M game. “So it is goodbye to Texas University, so long to the orange and the white. . . .” This may be so, but it ought not to be. The people of State of Texas deserve to see these two great universities do their annual Thanksgiving battle with the pigskin. There is too much history and too much fight left for these football teams to abolish a Texas tradition.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING DON DOMINA FOR HIS NEARLY 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COOPERATIVE FARMERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Congratulate Don Domina, General Manager of the Central Connecticut Cooperative Farmers Association who is retiring after nearly 35 years of service to the people and businesses of Connecticut.

Don Domina grew up on a farm in Vermont where his family, including his six siblings, raised dairy cows. Life on the farm led to interests in working with animals as a veterinarian, a passion he pursued as a youngster. As he grew older, Don left his family farm to pursue work in construction, building silos around New England and New York. In the late 1960s, Don moved to Connecticut to do construction work and later became a milk truck driver for Moser's, returning him to his dairy roots.

In November 1977, Don joined the staff of the Central Connecticut Cooperative Farmers

Associations a truck driver. However in his nearly 35 years at the Co-Op, he has held more than a half dozen positions in nearly every capacity. In March 2004, Don became manager of the Co-Op, a position he earned through his hard work and lasting commitment to help his customers and their farms.

While he is retiring from his position as General Manager, I imagine we will continue to see Don active in the agriculture world for many years to come. Whether it is through his work with the Connecticut Poultry Association or the University of Connecticut's agriculture programs, Don's commitment to agriculture and the farm families across Connecticut will never tire. I want to extend my heartiest congratulations to Don on his retirement and ask my colleagues to do the same.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
MUSTANGS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Midland Christian School Mustangs on a tremendous football season. On December 3, 2011, the Mustangs defeated the Tomball Concordia Lutheran Crusaders to win the TAPPS Division II State Championship.

The Mustangs finish the season with a 12-2 record, winning 12 consecutive games to finish the season and capture the state championship.

I want to congratulate the team on their dedication and hard work. This remarkable season was capped by a thrilling state championship that was a fight to the finish. Throughout the ups and downs of this year, the Mustangs persevered and clung together as a unit, ultimately winning state. I applaud their dedication and hard work.

Coach Greg McClendon, as well as the young men on the team, deserves recognition for the accomplishment. This victory marks the fifth 11-man state championship for the Mustangs—an outstanding accomplishment. I encourage them to enjoy this achievement to the utmost.

It is my honor to represent the Midland Christian School Mustangs and their state championship football team. Again, I congratulate the Mustangs on an outstanding season.

IN HONOR OF CONNIE COKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in a loss we are only just beginning to feel, Connie Coker stepped down as Rockland County Legislator at the end of 2011. To me she typified the Rockland spirit of enthusiasm, common sense, hard work, and intelligence. She cared for people and worked hard to help them in any way a legislator could. To top it off, she is a

genuinely nice person and I'm happy to call her a good friend.

Connie came to the legislature in April, 2006, winning a special election and then winning her re-election in 2007. She was tireless in advocating for clean air and water, affordable housing, green space, clean energy, a fair tax structure, and against overdevelopment and the dangers associated with Indian Point.

In the County Legislature she served as Chair of the Environmental Committee, Vice-Chair of the Multi-Services Committee and the Special County Comprehensive Plan Committee, was a member of the Public Safety Committee and the Solid Waste Authority Board, and served as the Legislative Liaison to the Fire Advisory Board, to the Volunteer Counseling Service, and to the Environmental Management Committee.

She is a Registered Nurse and a Licensed Midwife and her legislative agenda was based on her commitment to the health, well-being and safety of the citizens of Rockland County.

Connie lives in South Nyack with her husband Erik Larsen, a doctor. They have two daughters: Keah Larsen, a graduate of Nyack High School and SUNY New Paltz with a degree in Women's Studies; and Anika Larsen, also a graduate of Nyack High School who attended SUNY Delhi-Culinary Arts and Rockland Community College.

I will miss seeing Connie at the events we both went to. I will miss far more the wise counsel she had to offer and her sound advice about the areas we both represented. By happy coincidence we both represented a 17th District. She is a good and gracious person who represented her constituents wisely and well. We are all better for knowing her.

RECOGNIZING JAMES BURKE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the newly invested chief of the Suffolk County Police Department, James C. Burke. A dedicated law enforcement officer, Chief Burke has devoted his career to the service and protection of his community.

Chief Burke began his service at the New York City Police Department in January of 1985, before moving to the Suffolk County PD in July of the following year. During his time with the department, Burke has served in a variety of leadership roles, including supervising the patrol and detective divisions.

In addition to commanding the Organized Crime Bureau of the SCPD, Chief Burke has, since 2006, served as the chief investigator for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Burke also has demonstrated a commitment to law enforcement education and is frequently called to give lectures to groups around the country.

On January 1, 2012, James Burke was promoted to Chief of the Suffolk County Police Department, the pinnacle, but by no means the end, of a long and distinguished career.

Chief Burke will continue to serve his community as the highest ranking uniformed officer in the county, upholding the high standard for which the SCPD has become known.

Mr. Speaker, I honor James Burke for his invaluable and continuing contributions to our community. It is my great hope that his tenure with the department will be a credit to him and the officers he now oversees. I look forward to working with Chief Burke and supporting the department in its mission to keep Long Island safe and secure.

POVERTY IN CUBA

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding the culture of poverty in Cuba under the Castro regime.

[From the Jersey Journal, Dec. 31, 2011]

CUBA'S CULTURE OF POVERTY PERSISTS

(By Roland A. Alum)

The Fidel-&-Raul Castro regime marks 53 years this Jan. 1. The brothers unquestionably enjoyed extraordinary popularity in 1959, but the enthusiasm soon vanished as they turned Cuba into a financially and spiritually bankrupt Marxist anti-utopia.

As a result, nearly two million Cubans of all social backgrounds have fled, many of them settling in Hudson County.

By the 1950s, Cuba was a regional leader in numerous social indicators, notwithstanding instability and corruption during the republican era (1902-1958). But since 1959 the island-nation has become a backward, closed society beleaguered by unproductivity and rationing.

Sociologist Tomas Masaryk noted that "dictators 'look good' until the last minutes"; in Cuba's case, it seems particularly fine to certain U.S. intellectuals. Comfortably from abroad, apologists contend that most of the socioeconomic problems that traditionally afflicted the prior five and a half decades were eliminated after 1959. Yet, fact-finding by international social-scientists challenges this fantasy.

An early, little-known account uncovering some effects of the Castros' regimentation came from research in Cuba in 1969-'70 by U.S. cultural-anthropologists Oscar Lewis and Douglas Butterworth. They intended to test Lewis' theory that a culture of poverty would not exist in a Marxist-oriented society. They had naively presupposed that the socially alienating conditions that engender such phenomena could develop among the poor solely under capitalism.

The Lewis-Butterworth early on-the-ground scrutiny validates many accounts by respected experts and the much vilified exiles. There exists a culture of poverty in Cuba, although it is not necessarily a survivor of the old times, but seemingly a by-product of the Castros' totalitarian socialism. There were always poor Cubans, and some version of the culture of poverty might have existed before; but in my communications with Butterworth, he reconfirmed another discovery. The researchers could not

document a case for a pervasive pre-1959 culture of poverty. The authorities must have suspected the prospective conclusions because the scholars were abruptly expelled and their Cuban statistician imprisoned.

Upon the 53rd anniversary, the old Lewis Butterworth analysis invites renewed reflection. Apologists customarily replicate propagandistic clichés by blaming failures on external factors, such as the ending, two decades ago, of the multibillion-dollar subsidies from the defunct Soviet Bloc.

The anthropologists' undertaking, however, revealed that life for average Cubans in the Castros' first decade was already beset with corruption and time-wasting food lines. Likewise, Butterworth described how ordinary people were engaging in what sociobehavioral scientists now call "everyday forms of resistance." Cubans were already undermining the police-state through black-marketeering, pilfering and vandalism, as we hear that they continue to do decades later.

After more than half a century of oppression and poor quality of life, one hopes for a

transition to an open society with equal opportunities for every Cuban.

CONGRATULATING THE GREATER
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
ON THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church on their 80th anniversary. This is truly a historic occasion, and I want to commend the Church on this special anniversary for its ardent commitment to service and community outreach.

The Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church's beginnings were humble. The Church was first organized in 1932, under the auspices of Dr. C. C. Choice. Dr. Choice, along with thirty-five members of the Bethlehem Baptist Church,

had a vision of growing the church through good works in the community and being stewards of their faith.

Over the years, their numbers did grow. As their numbers grew, so did their charitable acts. The Church has been devoted in their commitment to serve people from all walks of life in Dallas. They offer many services to church members and the public, including providing health care workshops and screenings, ministries to youth and young adults to cultivate their spiritual and leadership skills, and a performing arts troupe, For His Glory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church's congregation. The Church's decades of commitment to our community has improved the lives of so many. Throughout the years, the Church has continued to bless the lives of countless people. May God continue to bless the congregation with many more years of continued prosperity.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
JANUARY 25

2 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine Kazakhstan, focusing on the stability of their government.
2200, Rayburn Building

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Contracting Oversight Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine contract management at Arlington National Cemetery.
SD-342

JANUARY 26

10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine the outlook for the United States and global economy.
SD-608

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1925, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and the nominations of Paul J. Watford, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and Dennis J. Erby, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Mississippi, Department of Justice.
SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine taxation of mutual fund commodity investments.
SD-342

2:15 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew David Hurwitz, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Kristine Gerhard Baker, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Ar-

kansas, John Z. Lee, and John J. Sharp, Jr., both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and George Levi Russell, III, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

JANUARY 31

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the United States and global energy outlook for 2012.
SD-366

FEBRUARY 2

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.
SD-366

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1739, to provide for the use and distribution of judgment funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188, S. 356, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and S. 908, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.
SD-628

FEBRUARY 7

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-G50

FEBRUARY 8

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for Veterans' Programs.
SR-418

FEBRUARY 9

10 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice's opinion on internet gaming, focusing on what's at stake for tribes.
SD-628

FEBRUARY 14

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50

FEBRUARY 16

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine energy development in Indian country.
SD-628

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-106

2:30 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).
345, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 29

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan.
SR-418

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SH-216

MARCH 7

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).
SD-G50

MARCH 21

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.
SD-G50

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Para-

lyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans (AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers As-

sociation of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.

345, Cannon Building